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Official Records

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New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

In the absence of the Co-Chair, Mr. Sogavare (Solomon Islands), Acting Co-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 p.m.

High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

Agenda items 13 and 117 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. René Emmanuel Sadi, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization of Cameroon.

Mr. Sadi (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, I would like at the outset to express appreciation for the decision taken by the General Assembly to convene this high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

We should recall that this meeting follows up on the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May, which expressed the necessity of finding appropriate solutions to the problem of refugees and migrants. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in the year 2014, nearly 14 million persons were refugees, half of them children and adolescents, with 86 per cent hosted in developing countries. Therefore, it is quite important to address this issue.

The question of refugees has drawn contradictory reactions. On the one hand, the original reason that those people fled has obviously been received with sincere compassion; on the other, the massive flow has also provoked anxiety and misgivings. As a result, certain policies have been set out and borders have been closed, and civilian detention camps have grown. At times, those people have been considered to be economic migrants and continue to be the object of negative judgments. And at times, they have been perceived as competitors for jobs or as a common threat to security. Those reactions undoubtedly arise from economic difficulties or the security situation in the host or transit countries. This meeting surely and opportunely marks a turning point as we consider the issue of the management of international migration flows.

At the same time, it also offers us an opportunity to ask ourselves a basic question about refugees and migrants. Are they not two facets of the same reality? The first group are often victims of conflict, while the other group is fleeing poverty or oppression. However, both groups are part of the same humanity; should they not, therefore, benefit from the same rights and guarantees under the Charter of the United Nations?

Cameroon is well aware of the issue. For more than three years, we have been subjected to the aggression of the terrorist organization Boko Haram and political crises in neighbouring countries. Cameroon has hosted approximately 350,000 refugees and migrants. Given

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our geographical location, our stability and, to some extent, our development level, Cameroon serves as both a host and a transit country. In our country, there is a tradition that offers foreigners an open and tolerant sociocultural environment. As we face the massive inflow of refugees and migrants, the Government of Cameroon has undertaken measures to address their basic needs.

In a spirit of spontaneous solidarity, our population mobilized to make a contribution that garnered considerable and much-appreciated support from friendly countries and international humanitarian organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Every effort is being made to assist the thousands of people in distress. In particular, considerable efforts are being focused on people's security, food and health, as well as on the education of the many children who live in approximately 10 refugee camps.

Substantial efforts are being made, but considerable needs must still be met. With support from our partners, including the United Nations, a response plan for 2016 was developed and budgeted at $282 million; however, only 20 per cent of that amount has been raised thus far. We therefore call on the international community to support host countries such as Cameroon, which has continued to provide shelter to people in distress and must juggle the required humanitarian action and the implementation of a bold development plan.

With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, my country has committed to cooperating at the international level so as to facilitate migration and safe, orderly, regular and responsible mobility. In that spirit, we expect that closer relations between the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations will assist in implementing coordinated policies so as to bring humane solutions to the problem of migration. As long as internal or external conflicts persist, as long as underdevelopment forces people to remain in unpredictable conditions and solutions are not forthcoming to stem the effects of climate change, it will be difficult to dissuade people from fleeing violence and poverty and from taking immeasurable risks to find asylum and a better life elsewhere.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Guillaume Long, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador.

Mr. Long (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Ecuador welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees to promote forums for dialogue and action on the pressing issue of large movements of refugees and migrants in the world. As the testimonies we have heard today prove, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of forced displacements throughout the world. Likewise, we have seen that some countries — namely, those in the North — are reluctant to host migrants or refugees.

Because it is a global phenomenon, we must reflect on the systemic causes of the current crisis. Human mobility is the result of a deeply unjust system of relations that reflects major imbalances and inequalities pertaining to the distribution of wealth and power. We live in a world that promotes the free flow of capital and goods but prohibits and criminalizes the free movement of human beings. The current situation, in which the countries of the North put up physical and even symbolic walls and the countries of the South pile up the dead, must be brought to an end. We could continue discussing the solutions that countries should devise to improve the current situation, but if we do not address the root, structural causes of the many injustices of today's world, we will be unable to bring lasting solutions to the situation.

We are very familiar with migrant and refugee issues in Ecuador. The crisis at the end of the 1990s, which led to what we referred to as a "bank holiday" in our country, led to thousands losing their savings and to more than 700,000 Ecuadorians leaving the country. Today, more than 3 million still live abroad. Within the diaspora, many were and continue to be victims of illegal human trafficking networks, and in both their transit and destination countries, they suffer discrimination, racism, exclusion, exploitation — in sum, human rights violations. That type of migration resulted in a deep political awareness and, in 2008, the year that our new Constitution was drafted, the Ecuadorian people decided that our Constitution would acknowledge human mobility as a right and include universal citizenship as a fundamental principle.

Of course, our foreign policy is focused on the protection of human rights of our fellow countrymen and women abroad. Our migrants are considered to be what we refer to as the fifth region in our country and contribute through their ongoing political participation through representatives in our National Assembly. Our legislative Assembly has six seats for representatives

of the migrant diaspora, and those residing abroad have the right to vote. We also worked to assist our fellow nationals who fell victim to mortgage scams at the height of the economic crisis in Europe and families that have lost custody of their children for socioeconomic reasons.

We are delighted to attend today's meeting in the special context in which the longest-running armed conflict in our region has come to an end. Peace illuminates a path for future progress and well-being for the Colombian people and for Ecuador. Of the countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, Ecuador has the highest number of refugees. In recent years, we have granted refugee status to more than 60,000 people, 95 per cent of whom are Colombian. In our country, no one is housed in ghettos, camps with barbed-wire fences or in refugee camps. Refugees fully enjoy all of their human rights.

Another important battle is the fight against politically motivated discrimination against migrants. The 1966 United States' Cuban Adjustment Act and the 1990s Wet Foot-Dry Foot policy are examples of how the immigration laws of one country are used to affect the sovereignty of another and create unacceptable discrimination in our hemisphere. While the United States deports 1,200 Ecuadorians each year, it encourages migrants from Cuba to take risks as they pass through our country and others.

A few weeks ago, nine Foreign Ministers from our region submitted a letter to our counterpart in the United States to request that the policies against Cuba, such as the Wet Foot-Dry Foot policy, be withdrawn. Such policies have resulted in large illegal movements of Cuban citizens making their way towards Central and South America, causing a serious humanitarian crisis in the region and in our countries and violating the safety and integrity of the Cuban migrants themselves. We are still awaiting response.

I hope that today's meeting and the documents adopted will fuel those efforts, leading to the resolve of all countries to work together determinedly and in solidarity on behalf of displaced persons.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on Her Excellency Ms. Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Education and Cultural Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Ms. Frick (Liechtenstein): The world is currently facing the largest movement of refugees and migrants since the Second World War. That has resulted in the record number of 65 million displaced persons throughout the world. People have to leave their homes because of conflicts, natural disasters, climate change, lack of economic perspectives, persecution and many other reasons. Grave violations of international humanitarian law, human rights and fundamental freedoms persist, owing to the inaction of the international community, and create new situations leading to mass displacement. We have to change something.

Liechtenstein is actively engaged in various areas, seeking to mitigate the suffering of today's refugees and migrants and to prevent other crises from erupting. One of our priorities is combatting impunity for human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law. Holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes not only brings justice to their victims, it also has a deterrent effect. In situations in which mass atrocities have occurred, accountability becomes particularly important. A person who commits a single murder is often more likely to be punished for that crime than a person who commits 1,000 murders. We are looking for stronger action to ensure accountability for mass atrocity crimes, in particular from the Security Council, which also has the authority to end and prevent such crimes.

I therefore invite every Member State that has yet to do so to join the code of conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, elaborated in the framework of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group. The intent of that political commitment is straightforward: to take action to prevent or end atrocity crimes and not to vote against credible draft resolutions to the same end. So far, 112 countries have joined, representing more than half of the Member States. We view support of the code of conduct as a prerequisite for membership in the Council.

Liechtenstein is currently contributing $65 per capita for international refugee and migration assistance. In the context of the conflict in Syria, we have provided an additional 2 million Swiss francs for projects in Syria's neighbouring countries. Since 2012, approximately 20,000 refugees and local children have been able to benefit from Liechtenstein's school projects in Jordan and Lebanon. International solidarity has a long tradition in Liechtenstein. We

offered a large number of refugees protection during the armed conflicts following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Today, we are undertaking a similar effort for those displaced by the Syrian conflict and other crises in order to help alleviate the burden on Syria's neighbours in particular. Liechtenstein has decided to participate in the resettlement programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the European Union's relocation scheme. When receiving asylum seekers, we pay particular attention to their speedy integration. Our newest initiative, Liechtenstein Languages, focuses on teaching the basics of the German language in just a few weeks. That allows refugees to quickly start interacting with locals and public offices, which has the effect of decreasing xenophobia.

We are trying to focus our humanitarian and development aid on long-term initiatives. Education, as I have mentioned in the context of Syrian refugee camps, is part of that approach. Other areas include the building of sustainable institutions, anti-corruption initiatives and women's empowerment. All of those issues can be found in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda reads like a manual for avoiding mass displacements, and we must treat it as such if we are serious about avoiding future large movements of migrants and refugees.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

Mr. Szijjártó (Hungary): First of all, I would like to make clear, on behalf of Hungary, that we welcome the fact that the United Nations is dealing with the issue of migration. It is necessary to find a balanced approach to the issue, and, instead of emotionally led debates, our debate should be based on common sense and rationality.

We have to admit that migration is largely a security issue. Taking into consideration the size and dimension of the migratory flows throughout the world, I think that there would be no debate about the fact that what we have been facing is a global security threat.

If that is so, we have to avoid hypocrisy and avoid bashing and accusing one another. We have to make a clear distinction between migrants and refugees, as has been correctly expressed in the title of today's meeting. We propose to stand on the very stable basis of international law, because it is clear that the right to a safe life is a fundamental human right. But choosing a country in which you would like to live is not among the fundamental human rights. I come from Europe and Hungary, a country that was overrun by 400,000 illegal migrants last year, attacking our police, violating our borders and breaking our laws. Based on our experience, I would like, therefore, to make six points here. These points are conclusions drawn from our experiences.

First, we have to tackle the root causes, and we have to help where the problems arise and where help is needed, because, in our view, we have to make it possible for people to stay as close to their homes as possible. We have to stop policies that encourage people to risk their lives by taking to the road.

Secondly, this year we have witnessed a migration without any kind of control, regulation or checks, equalling a mass violation of State borders. Such a mass violation entails a huge security risk, because uncontrolled and unregulated migration offers an opportunity for terrorist organizations to send their fighters out on various paths. In Europe, we find ourselves having to face the most serious security and terrorist threats ever seen.

That brings me to my third point, namely, that countries, States and Governments are responsible for providing security to their own citizens. That is why we have to avoid bashing countries that take the necessary steps to protect their own borders, because protecting one's border is a matter of sovereignty. And here I would like to draw a red line, namely, that there is no excuse for violating a State border between two safe countries. There is no excuse for doing so.

Fourthly, as we have experienced, 90 per cent of the migrants who entered the territory of Europe last year were actually victims of human traffickers. That is why we have to strengthen the fight against organizations of traffickers, and we have to consider that if we put too much emphasis on resettlement, that can encourage people to take to the road, which can help traffickers as well.

Fifthly, developments in northern Africa and in the Middle East have shown that the export of democracy can be very harmful and can lead to destabilization. When we make decisions with regard to international politics, we have to understand that there are differences with regard to culture and tradition. That is why we

have to be really careful, and we have to ensure that countries in vulnerable regions remain stable. We should avoid the export of democracy.

Sixthly, in order to avoid further escalation and the outbreak of crises around Europe and the globe, we have to strengthen preventive diplomacy in the framework of the United Nations. That is why Hungary is committed to contributing even more so as to strengthen that pillar of the United Nations.

Once again, I would like to underline that it is very positive that we have today put this item on the agenda of the United Nations.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development of France.

Mr. Ayrault (France) (*spoke in French*): On every continent, migration has been part of the history of humankind. It contributes to the diversity and enrichment of people and the interchange of peoples and cultures. In the face of the mounting fears, which are undermining our political systems, societies and unity, it is our responsibility to recall the fact that refugees need, above all, protection and that they are women and men, like all of us, to whom we owe fraternity and solidarity. Given the temptation to retreat, we must not underestimate the power of our voices. Let our voices ring out together loud and clear.

We are gathered here today to strengthen the response to the largest refugee and displaced person crisis that the world has seen since the Second World War. More than 65 million men, women and children have been thrown out on the street, reduced to the status of fugitives, exiles and uprooted people. Sixty-five million people is the same as the population of France.

It is undoubtedly in Syria that the situation is the most tragic and the most destabilizing, especially for the neighbouring countries. There are more than 300,000 dead, more than 10 million refugees and displaced persons, more than 1 million in Lebanon, more than 600,000 in Jordan and 2.5 million in Turkey. Given that situation, honesty obliges us to acknowledge that our collective response so far has not risen to the occasion.

In the face of such individual and collective tragedies, it is above all the responsibility of the States from which the migrants are fleeing to set up conditions for their return. However, we too can contribute to restoring migrants' hope. We can provide them with a means to build new lives. We can educate the generation of those who are Syria and will constitute the Syria of tomorrow. No, it is not too late to do that.

Our responsibility is tremendous. We must host the exiled persons in dignity and with respect for international law. We must not only not close our doors to them, but we must also assist the countries that bear a disproportionate burden of the demands of solidarity, a duty that is incumbent upon all of us but to which we have not all responded equally. Again, I am thinking of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, but also of the people of the countries in the Lake Chad Basin who are hosting the victims of Boko Haram and still many others.

We cannot simply respond. We need to throw all our weight behind facilitating their return. The refugee and migrant crisis has its origins in persecutions, conflicts, climate change and poverty. Those events do not constitute a fate to which we must resign ourselves. It is not just a matter of preventing persons who wish to leave their country from doing so. That would go against international law and, in our view, an open world. We need to offer them an alternative to setting out on the perilous migratory routes with despair as their only motivation.

In Syria our assistance will be in vain if the systematic and barbaric violence against civilians does not stop. Our efforts will be in vain if they continue to be blocked by obstacles to humanitarian assistance, which is an international obligation.

In the face of this global refugee crisis, France is assuming its responsibilities by contributing financially. First of all, besides its contributions to the European effort, France will allocate overall more than €1 billion between 2016 and 2018 to address the Syrian crisis, beyond the additional €100 million mobilized in 2015 to support humanitarian agencies, which was already a doubling of our support as compared to 2014. An amount of €200 million will be allocated over three years for urgent humanitarian assistance, education and vocational training, largely in Lebanon. France will also allocate almost €1 billion to assist Jordan.

We must not forget Africa. France supported the establishment of a new European fund to prevent irregular migration and forced displacement. We plan to invest €20 billion over five years to benefit the poorest African countries, because without development all of the loftiest programmes for preventing irregular migration will amount to nothing. Finally, we need

to support the main host countries of inter-African migration, which has historically served as a lever for growth on the continent. I am thinking mainly of Côte d'Ivoire. Thanks to our support, Africa will more easily absorb the population growth that it will face in coming decades.

France also contributes to the hosting of refugees. In 2015, more than 80,000 people submitted applications for asylum in France. That is 20 per cent more applications than in the previous year, and they were mostly submitted by Syrians. Of the asylum seekers from Syria, 97 per cent were granted refugee status. Furthermore, France is committed to welcoming more than 30,000 refugees from countries that neighbour Syria who are being relocated from other European countries. These are voluntary commitments, but we must quickly step up our efforts.

Lastly, the key is what we can do together in New York in the Security Council to contribute to the settlement of conflicts, which cause distress for all our brothers and sisters who are forced into exile.

We need to wage this struggle together at the financial level as well, by allocating more resources to the strengthening of hosting capacities. We must all take part in that effort fairly in order to ease the burden imposed on the neighbouring countries and so that the right to asylum, which is a fundamental right, remains a reality. Politically, we need to tackle head on the deep-seated causes of migration by reaffirming universal values, which are ultimately the values of diversity and openness and which lie at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr. Mabri (Cote d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): The world has, in recent years, faced unprecedented flows of migrants and refugees. The origins of those large-scale displacements are at the same time political, economic, security-related, social, environmental and, at times, cultural. They reflect the feeling of despair felt by the millions of people forced to flee their countries for a future that is at times uncertain. They challenge their traditional lifestyles and sometimes shake up the cultural and social horizons that they face. Such large-scale displacements undermine the response capacities of the countries of destination and, unfortunately, at times arouse negative feelings of discrimination, xenophobia or racism among the population of those host countries.

In the face of that situation, Côte d'Ivoire — which has on its soil a population that is 24 per cent foreign-born, according to the recent 2014 census — therefore welcomes the holding of this high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our common duty to stand in solidarity with those people, in accordance with international legal instruments on refugees and displaced persons.

Côte d'Ivoire is fully aware of the fact that the scale of the phenomenon of population displacements in recent years requires all countries to put forward a comprehensive, concerted and harmonized response so as to tackle the many challenges arising from such migrations. Indeed, no State alone can manage the phenomenon of population displacements. Neighbouring countries, transit countries and developing countries are affected. Some developing countries are particularly affected. Heavy demands have been put on their capacity to host people and on their public services, with tangible consequences for their own development and socioeconomic cohesion. Those countries need our support through greater international cooperation.

Our initiatives to surmount the challenges raised by mass displacements will be effective only if we tackle the root causes behind such unprecedented movements of people. We need, therefore, to strengthen our preventive diplomacy mechanisms at the regional and international levels so as to prevent conflicts, promote a peaceful settlement of disputes and consolidate peace. We especially need to promote the rule of law and respect for human rights. It is especially important for us to strengthen international cooperation to help the countries of origin to more effectively combat poverty, exclusion and the marginalization of certain populations. Here, there will be a need to promote fairness and social justice and to combat illicit capital flows, but also, and especially, to regulate the exploitation of natural resources so that they first benefit the interests of the most vulnerable populations.

The magnitude of the challenges posed by the mass displacements of populations requires a response from all stakeholders: States, private stakeholders, organizations for the management of migrants and refugees, and civil society. It is only together that we

can surmount the new challenges facing our world. It is together that we can open up new opportunities for hope for all vulnerable people. I hope that the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1), which has been adopted as the outcome of this meeting, will take all of those concerns into account.

The Acting Co-Chair: The General Assembly will now hear a statement by His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

Mr. Abe (Japan) (*spoke in Japanese; interpretation provided by the delegation*): The world is facing a serious humanitarian crisis with movements of refugees and migrants of an unprecedented magnitude. I heartily welcome the holding of this first United Nations high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the participation of all Member States. The crisis that we are facing is enormous and requires close coordination, involving all of the nations and organizations concerned.

To that end, at the Group of Seven (G-7) Ise-Shima Summit held in May this year, a leaders' declaration was issued that emphasized the importance of medium- to long-term efforts to assist refugees and migrants. I endorse the United Nations leadership in tackling this issue. I expect that all United Nations agencies will be united as one United Nations under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrations (resolution 71/1), which was adopted today. I also welcome the fact that an agreement has been reached to accept the International Organization for Migration, which has contributed greatly on this issue, as a United Nations agency.

As the current Chair of the G-7 and a country that champions the notion of human security, Japan has made a proactive contribution to the issue of refugees. The Japan International Cooperation Agency, as Japan's international aid organization, has rendered assistance to the communities hosting Syrian refugees in various parts of the world, such as Turkey and Jordan. Japanese non-governmental organizations are also working hard in cooperation with local people. Furthermore, Japan is coordinating closely with the United Nations agencies, and many Japanese officials are actively engaged.

A characteristic of Japan's assistance is the promotion of development assistance to help refugees stand on their own feet and to support the economic development of the host countries in parallel with emergency humanitarian assistance. Let me provide an example.

In central Lebanon, in addition to humanitarian assistance, Japan is providing, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, vocational training to the Syrian refugees and young Lebanese. We have also partnered with the United Nations Development Programme in order to construct irrigation canals for agriculture. Such assistance has by now helped more than 30,000 people.

We call such an approach coordinated humanitarian development assistance. In a nutshell, that assistance is aimed at providing support from emergency assistance to economic development in a seamless way for both refugees and host communities. I hope that our approach can serve as a major force in achieving the objective of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants by enabling the coexistence between refugees and migrants and the host communities, as well as by protecting the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants.

May I conclude my remarks by making a new pledge? Japan will implement humanitarian assistance supporting self-reliance and supporting hosting countries and communities for refugees and migrants to the tune of $2.8 billion over a three-year period starting in 2016. Japan will continue to play a leading role in the quest to solve the issue of refugees and migrants, in close collaboration with the international community.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on Her Excellency Ms. Lilja Alfredsdottir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland.

Ms. Alfredsdottir (Iceland): Human mobility is not in itself a bad thing. Far from it. As the Foreign Minister of Iceland, I stand here today because, 1,100 years ago, a group of Norse men and women embarked on a risky journey to seek a new life for themselves. Iceland, an island then completely unpopulated, became their new home.

Many people present here could share similar stories. Societies have benefited from the movement of people; indeed they have been formed because groups of people decided to move from one place to another. Today, we are witnessing migration on an unprecedented scale. Millions of people are on the move because they see no other alternative. They live in extreme poverty and lack access to basic needs, and they have been

forcibly displaced or they are fleeing war. The numbers speak for themselves — roughly 65 million people have been forcibly displaced, including 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million internally displaced persons.

We will be able to address the current trends in migration and lessen the suffering of those on the run from the scourge of war only if we address the root causes. I cannot stress that enough. Where inequality is the cause of displacements, we must also seek to increase equality. We must eradicate extreme poverty and work to ensure access to opportunity. At the same time, we must ensure an adequate and just framework for the movement of people, both in legal and practical terms. We will likely find that much of the movement we see is ultimately manageable, even beneficial to both individuals and societies. However, in order to help those fleeing under great duress now, the international community must do a much better job of addressing the underlying problems, most importantly climate change and war.

At the World Humanitarian Summit in May, a particular message was repeated over and over again: We must protect civilians in war and bring urgent relief to those suffering from conflict. We must demonstrate the political will to end conflicts, such as the one being fought in Syria. We cannot allow further escalation. The Security Council bears the heaviest responsibility for conflict prevention and for finding political solutions to ongoing conflicts. In my view, the Council needs to act more in unison, with more urgency and more concern for ordinary people.

I encourage everyone in this room to continue to support the international and humanitarian organizations assisting refugees in conflict areas and their neighbouring States. Iceland has, in 2016, provided $2.4 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan and the 2016 UNHCR Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. We are preparing to receive Syrian refugees in cooperation with UNHCR's resettlement programme, adding to those that arrived earlier this year.

I would also like to underscore the importance of gender equality as a powerful and necessary lever for preventing and resolving conflict and for making peace sustainable. First and foremost, women have the right to have a seat at the negotiating table equal to that of men. Let us keep that in mind as we move forward. It should not be an afterthought, secondary to other matters that may seem to some more pressing. On the contrary, working towards gender equality will help solve some of the problems that the world is faced with today and bring about a more humane world.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on Her Excellency Mrs. Neneh Macdouall-Gaye, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Gambia.

Mrs. Macdouall-Gaye (Gambia): The convening of this high-level meeting on migration is timely, if not long overdue, as we witness one of the greatest human tragedies since the United Nations was founded. Although migration has been part of our human evolution, with people moving in search of greener pastures, the situation today is mainly caused by wars, civil strife and environmental hazards. Millions in the Middle East, Africa and Asia have fled and continue to flee the killing fields in Syria, Iraq, Somalia and other hotspots where respect for the sanctity of life and human dignity have completely disappeared.

Let us look very closely at what has brought about those wars. It is the biggest irony of our time that in this age of political majority, economic miracles and technological transformation, we continue to experience global tragedies that emanate from political discord, ideological rivalries and rancour. Those are the man-made causes of the global migration and, indeed, the refugee crisis. We therefore welcome this timely meeting and the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1), as it propels the international community into taking collective action to alleviate the plight and suffering of migrants and refugees, and it underscores the need for the root cause of migration to be addressed.

The Islamic Republic of the Gambia, in declaring its support and sympathy for migrants and refugees, would like to express its appreciation to countries that have opened their borders and welcomed migrants and refugees, especially the most vulnerable, who are women, children and the disabled. Their kind actions should be applauded as exemplary humanitarian gestures.

In the same vein, we call on leaders in conflict zones from where the flows of migrants and refugees originate to show care and compassion by putting aside political and ideological rivalries in order to save their people from death and destruction. The massive flow of migrants and refugees can be stemmed or controlled

only when there is reconciliation, peace and stability in our countries.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia subscribes to the belief that migrants and refugees, as human beings, have inalienable rights that must be respected and protected in order to safeguard their dignity and well-being. In considering the plight of migrants and refugees, we wish to urge this meeting to take into account the imperative of burden-sharing. The cost of processing and settling migrants and refugees is too great for any country to undertake single-handedly. We therefore urge rich and well-meaning nations to contribute generously to the global funding to assist refugees and migrants and facilitate the work of the United Nations agencies charged with the task of managing the migrant crisis.

As a parallel measure, humanitarian and development assistance should be increased and immediately given to countries that are hosting migrants and refugees. That will enable the host countries to provide a more efficient and effective system of processing without depleting their resources. We also urge this meeting to consider and promote the positive aspects of migration. Most migrants are professional people who can contribute to the economies of their host countries if their labour markets are receptive to them. Migrants can also bring diversity and can engender peaceful coexistence.

There is also the need to encourage the development of high-quality programmes for refugees that can ensure legal and rapid processing. Reception and settlement are essential to reduce, if not eliminate, their suffering, especially that of women and children. We appeal to host countries to develop national strategies and programmes that will help refugees and their dependents to live in safe havens in dignity, until a time when it is possible to organize their return and reintegration into their country of origin.

Our young people have no reason to take such a perilous journey except for the illusion that Europe is replete with gold and honey and that once they land on European soil they will become affluent overnight. They must reconsider such a dangerous mission. They are better off staying in their countries and seizing opportunities available to them to develop themselves. That would, of course, require awareness and sensitization and the creation of relevant youth policies and programmes and partnerships with international agencies to create more opportunities.

I will conclude by calling on this body to address the lucrative trade carried out by human traffickers. Those criminals must be stopped, if we are to bring an end to those perilous journeys. It is my hope that this high-level meeting will complement efforts being made to address and redress the plight and suffering of migrants and refuges and bring focus to our collective global action. The world needs peace and stability, as well as safety, for its citizens.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Pierrot Delienne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti.

Mr. Delienne (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): First I would like to warmly congratulate the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting concerning the root causes of large movements of refugees and migrants. I am confident that his experience and ability bode well for our successful effort.

I should like also to commend the work done by the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who has always devoted sustained attention to the effective management of movements of refugees and migrants and encouraged States to undertake expeditious measures to tackle this issue.

In the same vein, I welcome the decision of the United Nations leadership to ensure that this meeting includes the participation of representatives of the community of migrants and refugees, who are the spokespersons for the nearly 240 million people who have been affected by the complex and multidimensional phenomenon of displacement from their native land.

It is well known that migration is a global economic, political, cultural and social phenomenon. It assumes various forms based on the era, country and historical circumstances. Human beings have always felt the need to move, most often in order to address their most immediate material needs. Here we are talking about voluntary migration, but there is also forced and involuntary migration. For example, America, in its present form, is the result of both voluntary and forced migration. Indeed, Europeans, Africans and Asians, at various junctures in history and under various circumstances, arrived to populate the continent.

From 1960 on, a reverse migration movement began, with nationals from American States leaving

their countries of origin to travel to old European cities. There is also inter-American migration, characterized by the migration of natives of certain countries in the Americas to other countries in the Americas. From another standpoint, there is also intra-Caribbean migration, involving migrants from countries and States of the Caribbean region who move to other territories in the region and settle there in search of better living conditions.

Today, migration is taking place in all directions, from one region to another and from one continent to another, with specific features. The latest wave of migrants from the Mediterranean towards Western Europe shows that migration is actually a circular movement.

A vast migratory movement has specific political and economic causes. It is the particular political realities of a State or group of States in a geographical region and the socioeconomic aspects related to these realities that end up pushing people out, resulting in migration. These include hunger, war, the search for employment, political and religious conflicts, natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, professional training and university education. Alongside these push factors are also factors of attraction that encourage a country's nationals to leave home for other shores.

Today the world has indeed become a small village. New information and communications technologies bring people closer together in villages, States and communities everywhere. People are increasingly aware of the realities in a certain country and, accordingly, they are willing to embark on a migratory adventure, hoping to change their living conditions in the host countries. Such migrants, through their work and their bravery, contribute to the development at many levels of their countries of destination. Indeed, migration contributes to international understanding and enrichment among cultures and civilizations.

It is with great pleasure that I inform the Assembly that the Haitian Government last year crafted a guiding framework for migration policy for the 2015-2030 period. This document is based on respect for human rights and the implementation of appropriate measures to make migration an option, not a necessity at any cost. The Government of the Republic of Haiti is committed to delivering on the goals that are enshrined in this framework document.

Haiti — and we cannot state this often enough — is a country of immigration and emigration, like many other countries on the American continent. Initially this country was made up of the descendants of migrants from Europe and Africa, from migrations that took place in the Americas during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Subsequently, in the late nineteenth century, Haiti received refugees and migrants, especially from the Middle East.

On the other hand, Haiti became one of the many countries of emigration in the early twentieth century, when many agricultural workers sought employment in sugar plantations in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Haitian migration continues today in countries of the Caribbean, the United States, Canada, and Latin American countries.

Thus migration has become an overarching theme of Haitian foreign policy. The Government of the Republic of Haiti attaches particular importance to Haitian migration. The authorities are working strenuously to create living conditions favourable to remaining for people who are very attached to their country of origin and their culture. For that reason, it is important for the country to have greater resources and opportunities so as to implement its socioeconomic development programme.

In this regard, I would stress that the categorization of Haiti as one a Heavily Indebted Poor Countries is a heavy burden that deprives it of access to various sources of external financing. Given the low level of domestic resources and a significant drop in foreign contributions, the country is facing many new economic problems that undermine our political stability and thereby foster migration.

In this context, financing for development is urgent. The Government of the Republic of Haiti is endeavouring to solve this problem by increasing domestic revenue, mobilizing all potential flows of external assistance and increasing investment in the private, national and international sector. It would be even more beneficial if Haiti could gain swift access to international credit. More than ever before, Haiti needs the funds necessary to generate revenue and employment, which will have a multiplier effect, enhance growth and promote modernization of our country.

During previous high-level discussions on migration and development, it was recognized that migration contributes to the development of certain communities.

I support this idea. We should therefore encourage the contribution of the diaspora to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In countries of emigration such as Haiti, remittances from migrants eclipse official development assistance in terms of volume, hence the importance that our Government attaches to emigration and immigration.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize the fact that the Haitian Government supports the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on a global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration (A/70/59), and we wish to see it implemented by all States Members of the United Nations. I hope that the decisions taken during our work will contribute to improving the status of migrants in host countries and to ensuring respect for their rights.

The Acting Co-Chair: I now call on Her Excellency Ms. Jean Kalilani, Minister for Gender, Women, Children and Community Development of Malawi.

Ms. Kalilani (Malawi): Malawi considers the issue of refugees and the influx of migrants as an important aspect of the global response to ensure that all persons who come through our borders seeking solace from many problems in their countries of origin, including socioeconomic, political and humanitarian ones, are accorded all of the assistance that they deserve in order for them to enjoy their basic human rights.

My Government has therefore continued to ensure that refugees in Malawi have equal access to social services such as education, health care, humanitarian support and enjoyment of access to economic activities without any discrimination, while at the same time contributing effectively to our national needs as a sovereign State governed by the rule of law and international agreements.

At the outset, I must point out that, like in many other countries, in Malawi the issue of refugees and migrants is not a new phenomenon. As many are aware, in the 1970s and 1980s, my country hosted approximately 1.2 million refugees. However, all of them returned to their respective countries when it was deemed safe to do so. Although we have not seen a recurrence of such a peak in refugees to date, Malawi continues to host a total of 27,000 refugees and asylum-seekers today, from across our region and beyond. That has occurred because Malawi offers a peaceful environment in which refugees and migrants can enjoy the full human rights and fundamental freedoms to which they are entitled, in line with its laws and international conventions.

Mr. El Haycen (Mauritania), Acting Co-Chair, took the Chair.

We are cognizant of the influx of large numbers of persons migrating, specifically from Africa and the Middle East, to Europe, and from Latin America to North America, owing to dissatisfaction with the living conditions in their respective countries. We are also aware of the strain that those movements impose on the host countries. However, considering that those refugees and migrants are citizens of the world, who deserve the same dignity and honour as all other human beings, States Members of the United Nations have the obligation to act as their brother's keeper for the many people seeking improved living conditions.

I am fully aware of the challenges posed by the current situation. In the case of Malawi as a host country to refugees from other parts of Africa, those challenges have led, in extreme circumstances, to the degradation of our environment.

We recognize that the provisions spelled out in resolution 71/1 point, among other things, to the need to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and core international human rights treaties. As a matter of principle, we also encourage all Member States to address the real causes of migration in our countries and why people become refugees fleeing to other countries in the first place.

In conclusion, let me state that my Government is committed to supporting and accommodating refugees and lawful migrants in partnership with the assistance of the international community in order to ensure that they are fully accepted in our communities until they decide to voluntarily return to their countries of origin.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now call on her Excellency Ms. Makalé Camara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad of Guinea.

Ms. Camara (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, the Republic of Guinea would like to congratulate the President and the Secretary-General for taking the initiative to organize a meeting as important as the one that has brought us together today on the issue of refugees and migrants in the world. Guinea also thanks the facilitators, whose efforts have enabled the harmonization of delegations' views during

the various official consultations that led to the drafting of resolution 71/1.

This meeting is taking place at a troubling time, one punctuated by the dizzying rise in the number of refugees and migrants fleeing the agony of conflicts, persecutions, poverty, famine and the harmful effects of climate change. Rather than serving as a means for scoring political points, this meeting must offer an opportunity for the international community to find lasting solutions to mass displacements. In that vein, my delegation reiterates its adherence both to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention, and to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto.

Although the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul demonstrated the collective will of the international community to address the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants, their situation remains an ongoing problem. The Summit expressed the demand that we commit to repairing the root causes of displacement by reinforcing and implementing legal instruments and international cooperation. My delegation therefore welcomes the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1), which we adopted today.

The search for funding and the transparent management of humanitarian funds are necessary in addition to any affirmation of political will by representatives in this room. That will enable us to reinforce the resilience of host countries and the conditions for a safe return, including protection, autonomy and the lasting resettlement of refugees and migrants in their countries of origin. The increase in humanitarian funds must also enable prevention, including the financing of development projects intended for women and children, as well as national policies that would prevent massive displacement. Within that framework, my country has initiated numerous projects for the benefit of women and children, the implementation of which requires the support of our bilateral and multilateral partners, thereby creating jobs for youth and empowering women between now and 2030.

Human dignity and rights must guide our discussions with a view to eradicating intolerance, racism, xenophobia and other forms of cruel treatment to which refugees and migrants fall victim in host countries. Although international humanitarian law guarantees the international protection of refugees and migrants, thousands of such people are prone to becoming exploited and continue to be deprived of their most basic rights. That is the situation with regard to migrant workers and their families.

Added to the difficulties reflected in rosters and censuses and the precariousness of conditions in refugee camps is the alarming situation of children and women, who make up more than half the number of refugees and migrants in the world. In West Africa, there are hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and refugees in distress, especially in the Sahelo-Saharan band and in the Lake Chad region, owing to terrorist activities by Boko Haram and other jihadist groups.

The large-scale movements of refugees and migrants should be addressed not just as a scourge, but also as a contributor to the development of our countries when the responsibilities are shared appropriately. Education, job creation and social inclusion can not only curb mass displacement, but they also enable refugees and migrants to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the countries of origin and host countries. The remittances sent back to countries of origin by migrants and the workforce made up of working migrants in host countries can justify that. My delegation wishes to welcome the efforts to integrate and educate migrants and refugees which some States have undertaken.

Given the increase in the flows of migrants, we must strengthen the United Nations system by defining a new agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), whose expertise and goodwill have been invaluable to the success of our actions for migrants and refugees. Accordingly, we welcome the agreement that was signed this morning between the United Nations and the IOM.

This is also the occasion to call for the protection of United Nations humanitarian personnel, in particular the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We should also encourage States to sign, ratify and implement legal instruments for improved protection of refugees and migrants.

From 1990 to 2011, the Republic of Guinea welcomed more than 1 million refugees following civil wars, which have regrettably affected neighbouring

countries, especially Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire. Through its policy for integration and the efforts of the High Commissioner for Refugees, many refugees have been granted Guinean nationality or have voluntarily returned to their country of origin. Today, Guinea has on its territory more than 4,000 refugees, who fully benefit from the hospitality and protection of the Guinean Government. This important experience of my country demonstrates its respect for international commitments and its awareness of the sharing of humankind.

In an attempt to prevent the causes of the large-scale displacement of refugees and migrants, the Government of Guinea is committed to strengthening the peaceful climate through respect for human rights and the rule of law. We have also strengthened the measures for protecting the environment and set out national humanitarian structures to respond to the needs of displaced persons.

The solution for these large-scale movements of refugees and migrants requires a joint effort based on genuine political will, cooperation and mutual assistance. In that regard, the Government of Guinea reiterates its strong willingness to continue to work with all States in order to contribute to ensuring peace and security in the world, without which no development solution is possible.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to convey its support for the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Frances Fitzgerald, Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland.

Ms. Fitzgerald (Ireland): We come together today to deal with arguably the biggest challenge the world has faced in this century: the relentless recurring long march across the globe of the dispossessed, the distraught and the destroyed. We know the many reasons, starting with poverty, hunger and climate change. These are driving the mass migration of peoples as much as, if not more than, conflict and violence. But conflict and violence, of course, also continue to be the primary causes of migration.

Indeed, we in Ireland understand from our own experience the forces that can push people to leave their homes for a very uncertain future. During the 1960s, the population of my country was less than half of what it had been in the early 1840s owing to mass emigration that began in response to famine and continued virtually unabated for over a century because of poverty and a lack of opportunity.

While we have a keen awareness of the cost to Ireland in terms of lost potential from this forced migration, we also understand the contributions that those who left and their descendants have made to the countries where they now live, as well as to their country of origin or ancestry. This massive, agonizing challenge demands that the international community work together constantly. We must be as relentless as the challenges that we face, and, even more importantly, we must be on our guard all day every day, lest the very scale of the problem turn our faces towards processes and numbers and away from people.

People must be at the heart of our approach. We must ensure a humane and dignified approach to international protection and must establish legal and safe pathways for migration. We must work together to ensure that refugees and migrants find safety and that adequate resources are made available to those we are obligated to protect in order to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Right now, the burden of hosting refugees is disproportionately borne by developing countries. A more equitable sharing of responsibilities is urgently needed. Ireland is willing to step up to the plate on this. Ireland's response to the current crisis has been two-pronged in nature, with action at both the national and international levels.

Ireland has had a successful national resettlement programme in place since 2000. It has resettled more than 1,500 people from 30 countries, providing housing, language training, medical assistance and integration opportunities. Turning specifically to our new refugee protection programme, under that programme, Ireland has committed to admitting 4,000 people. As part of our humanitarian response, our naval vessels have also been performing vital search-and-rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea. They have rescued more than 10,000 people since the operation began in May 2015.

Our focus has also been on supporting international responses. We are strongly committed to using the foreign policy instruments at our disposal — political dialogue, development, cooperation and humanitarian assistance — as part of our response. We have for instance worked actively to provide support to the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies charged with meeting the needs of refugees.

Equally important is the support that we provide to countries hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants. Ireland is committed to providing multi-annual funding to the World Food Programme — some $60 million over the next three years, which is specifically targeted at refugees, particularly Syrian refugees. We encourage the international community to adopt multi-annual commitments in order to provide organizations such as the World Food Programme with greater certainty about their funding. The international community does have a collective responsibility to look at all of the options available to pursue a more long-term and sustainable strategy on this issue. Dialogue and cooperation with countries of origin and transit must be strengthened and operationalized.

Of course, fundamentally, the true solution to refugee movements is to end the instability, conflict and oppression that force people to leave their homelands. Women's leadership can help to alleviate conflicts that have contributed to so many of the refugees crises we face. Ireland is a strong supporter of the women and peace and security agenda because peace processes that involve women at all levels have proved to be more durable and successful.

Today's humanitarian challenge requires a global response. We must share the responsibility for finding and implementing solutions. Ireland believes that the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1) sends a strong message of our political commitment to a wide range of actions, which taken together will ensure a more humane and compassionate response in future to this issue.

Ireland stands ready to play its part in addressing this crisis. We know that more needs to be done. We are open to seeing what can be done in cooperation with others to end the suffering and misery of so many people. I would like to congratulate Ireland's ambassador, Mr. David Donoghue, and his team, and their Jordanian colleagues, for their leadership and commitment as facilitators of this event.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Liduvina Magarin, Vice-Minister for Salvadorans Abroad.

Ms. Magarin (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for me to address the General Assembly on the occasion of this high-level plenary meeting organized to address movements of refugees and migrants in the world.

As we all know, migration has now become a matter of global interest that requires various approaches, solutions and cross-cutting responses in our daily efforts, which must be conducted at various levels — local, State and international. Accordingly, there needs to be a shared responsibility in the recognition of, respect for and protection of the human rights of the migrant and refugee populations, especially for boys, girls and adolescents. That should be done through international cooperation, in particular through the contribution and significant efforts among countries of origin, transit and destination.

It is essential that we recognize that migration has multiple causes. It cannot be explained or analysed based solely on data; there is never just one reason for it. That is why the issue must be examined in all its dimensions, with short-, medium- and long-term measures driven by all stakeholders involved in the issue. As we know, in the context of migration, many of those who migrate are in fact people who require international protection or asylum. The current mass movements of people challenge us to focus our attention on the human dimension of the situation. It is a question of persons, each with his or her own particular life story. We need to analyse the age, the sex, their motivations, their places of origin, transit and destination, and group affiliation, among other aspects, because it is not possible to have a one-size-fits-all solution.

Migratory flows do not represent in themselves a risk for countries of destination. On the contrary, there are many social, economic and cultural benefits and opportunities for those countries. For this reason, we must as States recognize our obligations for assistance and protection in compliance with international law and recognize the special needs of persons in vulnerable situations.

In this context, I should like to underscore the risks they run during their transit, particularly for women, girls and boys, and especially unaccompanied children or children separated from their families, who easily fall prey to human trafficking or abuse in the context of the smuggling of migrants. Therefore, migrants must be given a comprehensive support policy and protection

that fully respects and guarantees their rights. I must also underscore the need to create conditions in destination countries that favour the integration of migrant populations and ensure their rights to education, housing, work and health care.

It is also crucial to continually support strategies to prevent the smuggling and human trafficking of girls and adolescents. In that regard, the Government of El Salvador has also been contributing to duly addressing this situation, in addition to our work to meet the other challenges this issue demands of us. We have implemented policies for consular assistance to protect human rights and contributed to addressing extra-continental migration, such as in the case of Cubans who accumulated on either side of the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

That brings us to reflect on the irregular migration in Central America's Northern Triangle region, which consists of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. A dialogue has begun, which Mexico and the United States, as countries of origin, transit and destination, have also joined, with a view to finding a joint solution, sharing responsibility and creating what we call the Alliance for Prosperity Plan in the Northern Triangle of Central America. El Salvador believes that a comprehensive approach to migration that looks at structural causes is the path by which to confront and resolve in a positive manner the challenges we are before us.

Based on the foregoing, I wish to reiterate that El Salvador is committed and stands ready to tackle this challenge. We express our willingness to contribute to this end and join in this common approach to address migration in a comprehensive manner and from a deeply human perspective.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gerd Müller, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

Mr. Müller (Germany) (*spoke in German, English interpretation provided by the delegation*): Over the last 10 years, the number of refugees across the world has almost doubled. The number of migrants has also nearly doubled, with 65 million across the globe, of whom 50 per cent are children and young people. War, violence, hunger and natural disasters force people to become refugees. A lack of opportunities and the possibility of a future also lead to migration flows.

I am grateful to the Secretary-General for sending out a clear message with this high-level plenary meeting. All of us bear responsibility for this situation. Nearly 90 per cent of refugees are currently located in 10 developing countries and emerging economies. They are in the poorest countries, and those countries have taken them in, which has demanded a massive amount of resources from the countries concerned. I saw that myself in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and other countries. On the other hand, 10 rich, industrialized countries are funding 80 per cent of the global refugee aid being distributed.

This high-level meeting must send out the message that this situation must change. There must be greater solidarity. The speeches delivered in this room must be translated into action. More countries must be involved in taking in refugees and more countries must provide financial support. Some $20 billion is required to meet the refugees' basic needs across the world. I know that is a large sum of money, but what is $20 billion for the international community? The World Cup in the desert country of Qatar will probably require an investment of approximately $200 billion. Yet so far only $8 billion has been made available worldwide for migrants and refugees, when $20 billion is needed. This is shameful; we should not be allowing this to happen.

The situation in Syria, Iraq and their neighbouring countries is particularly difficult. Stability is needed to help people survive and provide a future for the children in refugee accommodations. While $8 billion is needed, only $3.5 billion has been made available. For Syria, that represents only 45 per cent of the actual need. I attended the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and am now at this high-level meeting here in New York. Only 45 per cent of the commitments made to support Syria have been delivered. I could read the list out loud to the Assembly. On one side we can see the commitments made in London. The other side shows either what has been provided or the empty promise that was made. That list is available on the website of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

What do we need? We need greater transparency, a monitoring system and the administration and implementation of the commitments made. Commitments must be translated into concrete projects. Payments must be verifiable and transparent for all. We need stability in the system, namely, more forward-looking planning and more prevention. UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees and the World Food Programme must be able to plan in advance.

We cannot return to a situation where funding is insufficient to provide food for babies in refugee camps. That is why we should together consider the question of establishing a United Nations refugee fund of €10 billion. We need global burden-sharing. In our refugee policy everybody bears responsibility. We support the Secretary-General and the proposals that have been made.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now call on Her Excellency Ms. Antoinette Dinga-Dzondo, Minister for Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity of the Republic of the Congo.

Ms. Dinga-Dzondo (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Managing large movements of refugees and migrants is one of the major challenges of our time. My delegation appreciates this high-level meeting, which provides us with the opportunity to make new commitments aimed at dealing with a phenomenon that spares no continent. According to statistics, to date a total of 17 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) exists worldwide. Africa has 12 million refugees and displaced persons and is therefore the greatest supplier of refugees and migrants. The number of IDPs is also steadily increasing.

As for my country, the Congo, it currently hosts 53,717 displaced persons, a majority of whom are refugees from neighbouring countries, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. One can add to that number 6,004 asylum-seekers of all nationalities.

Migration contributes to bringing people together, as well as to countries' development efforts, and there is no longer any doubt that it should be safe, regular and orderly. A lasting solution for managing large movements of refugees and migrants is possible only through close cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination, with the support of United Nations system partners and agencies.

My country attaches great importance to the regular holding of tripartite meetings with the refugees' countries of origin and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The most recent such meeting was held on 8 and 9 September in Brazzaville and focused on the situation of Rwandan refugees living in the Republic of the Congo, in view of the entry into force of the termination clause of our refugee statute, which is set to expire on 31 December 2017. The parties agreed on the need for continued awareness of the various options that refugees are free to choose among, namely, voluntary repatriation, exemption and local integration.

In addition, the Congo is also a party to various international legal instruments on the promotion and protection of human rights. As such, it has adopted implementing regulations at the national level to ensure that refugees and migrants have access to basic social services, such as health, education, housing and employment, as part of their protection.

My delegation welcomes the adoption today of the outcome document on refugees and migrants (resolution 71/1). Through that text, the international community has once again recognized the urgent need to implement the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in due time. The 2030 Agenda, whose Goals include the eradication of poverty and inequality, the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, the establishment of conditions fostering an inclusive economy and the promotion of employment, invites us to respect the commitments made in the framework of providing assistance and protection to refugees and migrants.

I cannot conclude without reiterating the commitment of my country, the Congo, to continuing to promote and protect the rights of refugees and migrants as an integral part of the human rights platform.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Mr. Abdrahamane Sylla, Minister of Malians Abroad of Mali.

Mr. Sylla (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to bring the warm greetings of the President of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who considers especially important the issue that we are addressing today with regard to the enormous challenges we are facing. He anticipates that the participants will carefully consider those challenges and seek ideal solutions to the issues at hand.

The delegation of Mali welcomes the choice of the theme, whose relevance is justified by the many challenges resulting from the current trends in international migration, their role in the evolving demographics and their inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals in the framework of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

According to the statistics set out in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development, published in August (A/71/296), the number of international migrants reached 244 million in 2015, representing an increase of 71 million, or 41 per cent compared to 2000. The report also points out that today more than 40 million people are displaced within their own countries and that the number of refugees and asylum-seekers now exceeds 24 million.

In Mali, there are 500,000 internally displaced persons, and there are 150,000 refugees in neighbouring countries, owing to the crisis in the north of Mali, compounded by the occupation in 2012 of two thirds of the national territory by terrorist groups and narco-jihadist groups that subjected the local populations to all kinds of abuses and grave human rights violations.

During the World Humanitarian Summit, which was held in Istanbul in May 2016, the President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, undertook firm commitments to continue with humanitarian programmes and actions aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people of northern Mali. In that framework, a national humanitarian action policy document and an action plan for 2016–2020 have been drafted and implemented, and a national strategy for the management of internally displaced persons and repatriated persons has been adopted, spelling out guidelines and the measures to be taken to facilitate the return of displaced persons.

Four regional emergency intervention plans were developed in July 2015 for the northern regions, including Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal and Mopti, thanks to the national synergy and the support of partners including the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Sustainable solutions to the root causes of mass displacement must be adopted. Disaster risk reduction provisions, as set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, need to be urgently adopted. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change must be effectively and fully implemented. Collective resources must be harnessed to prevent armed conflicts and ensure that they are settled expeditiously and in a lasting way; and all forms of discrimination and inequality must be combated.

The challenges of migration, given their extreme complexity at the social, political and cultural levels, have become decisive factors in bilateral and multilateral relations. In this regard, the overall approach of my country, Mali, to managing migration hinges on stepping up dialogue among countries of origin, destination and transit so as to find suitable solutions that would link requirements in the area of security, development, respect for human dignity and ensuring solidarity. Migrations would then take place under humane and orderly conditions and benefit both migrants and the societies of the countries of origin and of destination. Furthermore, they would occur in a regular way, in safety and with full respect for human rights and the obligation to deal humanely with migrants, both regular and irregular, refugees and internally displaced persons.

Mali, which seeks to make migration an asset for its socioeconomic development, in September 2014 adopted a national migration policy document together with an action plan that sets forth a vision, guidelines and strategic pillars for the diaspora, migrants' associations, the Government and the people of Mali affected by migration issues. The aim of the policy is to better manage migration so as to contribute to reducing poverty and to sustainable development. This is an ambitious project based on two key pillars: management of migration as part of international standards, and the will to link migration and development.

Ultimately, implementation of this policy will contribute to building upon the efforts under way to create jobs for youth so as to prevent them from being tempted by irregular migration and from being recruited and indoctrinated by terrorist and narco-jihadist groups for criminal purposes, as has happened in some parts of northern Mali.

In conclusion, I should like to call upon the States Members of the United Nations to further commit themselves to the international normative framework relating to international migration, especially instruments to uphold the fundamental rights of all, including those aimed at promoting the rights of migrant labourers and their family members, protecting refugees and combating trafficking in migrants and in other human beings.

The Acting Co-Chair (*spoke in French*) The Assembly will now hear an address by Her Excellency Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia.

President Grabar-Kitarović: I express my gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, relevant United Nations agencies and partner institutions and organizations for having developed concrete policy on this issue throughout the past year. The World Humanitarian Summit and the Agenda for Humanity served as a great contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our collective pledge to leave no one behind.

Although Croatia, the European Union and our partners have made positive strides in developing strategies and solutions to curtail, finance and manage the migration crisis since last fall, the main problem remains unresolved. Therefore, I believe that today's summit is timely and significant for three reasons.

First, as our outcome document (resolution 71/1) clearly highlights, large movements of people are a global phenomenon that no Member State can shy away from. This is not just a European problem or a problem that is happening somewhere else, far from our sight. By now we should know that our world has no boundaries with respect to humanitarian and security issues.

Secondly, building upon this, we must realize that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol may be supplemented by new milestones in the light of current facts and challenges. Today, as we adopt and discuss the summit's outcome document, it is important that we recommit ourselves to our global obligations, the importance of responsibility-sharing and the need for comprehensive responses.

The refugee issue remains a humanitarian one, but its scope and ramifications go far beyond this dimension. This global crisis also has ample political, economic, developmental, social, legal and human rights aspects. We do not need to minimize anyone's dignity or rights or the perils in which they find themselves. Instead, we have to address the root causes of people's predicaments.

This leads me to my third point: preventing and ending conflict, violence and persecution. Implementing the 2030 Agenda will address many of the root causes of migration. Conflict is just one of these causes, but it is perhaps the only one on which the global community can act in a timely manner to prevent and finally end it, through both soft and hard power.

The other causes — among them poverty, inequality, lack of opportunities, lack of education, climate change, failed States and deteriorating societies — will remain a long-term quest. For the time being, we need to focus on consistent implementation of legal admission and return policy and preventing the loss of life in migrants' dangerous journeys. We must achieve coordination and cooperation among all countries on the migration chain — origin, transit and destination countries — in order to promote safe, regular and orderly migration management.

We must increase global efforts in countering organized crime networks in human trafficking. Since last autumn, the European Union has in reality been supporting huge illegal industries of traffickers. Croatia spent about €20 million for assistance to migrants. Imagine how much more effectively this money could have been spent throughout the broader region by helping those in dire circumstances and by countering conflict, terrorism and violent extremism.

Today's summit and its outcomes are part of the new milestone in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. We cannot argue against the principles that we want for our citizens in our own societies. Everyone should have the right to remain in their homes. Children and young people must not lose their rights to education and safety. Families should not be placed in situations where they have to leave someone behind. Individuals must not be put in a position of having to choose between their basic economic survival and their human rights. We must do everything to ensure that people never have to abandon their homes in search of safety. No one can financially repair or rebuild a life or a community that is forever lost to conflict.

The Acting Co-Chair *(spoke in French)*: I now call on His Excellency Mr. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada

Mr. McCallum (Canada): Migration has been a constant throughout human history, so it should be seen as a reality to be addressed rather than a problem to be solved. It presents both challenges and opportunities but remains a force for positive change, fostering inclusion, diversity, innovation and growth. On the subject of diversity, I might mention that our Prime Minister, Mr. Justin Trudeau, frequently says that Canada is strong not in spite of our diversity but

because of it, and for us, immigrants and refugees are the very embodiment of our diversity.

In order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and leave no one behind, we need a comprehensive approach that focuses on the benefits of managed migration. Such an approach must be anchored in indivisible human rights that apply to all. It must also address the particular challenges faced by female refugees and migrants, by women and girls. It must recognize the important role of and enormous challenges faced by host countries. It must find equitable and comprehensive ways to share the global responsibility.

(*spoke in French*)

In order to achieve our objectives, we need a new partnership and innovative means for cooperation. That is why Canada is particularly pleased that the International Organization for Migration is now officially joining the United Nations family, so that it can share with us its vast experience and leadership in the area of international migration. Immigrants have enabled Canada to be a prosperous and dynamic country. They have expanded trade and investments, stimulated economic growth and cultural development, and insured that diversity was a great strength.

(*spoke in English*)

Around the world, migrants, including refugees, fill skill gaps and labour market shortages, address the challenges brought on by aging populations and improve understanding of other cultures. In Canada, refugees have done very well. Two of our former Governors General are refugees, and one of my cabinet colleagues, Maryam Monsef, who was a refugee from Afghanistan, is now our Minister of Democratic Institutions.

In formulating a cooperative approach to migrants and refugees, we must recognize their inherent dignity, and facilitating refugees' access to education and employment is a tangible expression of such an approach. We hear many voices around the world speaking with insecurity about others and with fear of those who are different from them. And yet many countries are hosting millions of refugees, often while dealing with already stretched resources. I know that well from recent visits to Jordan and Lebanon, where it is abundantly clear that those countries are bearing a huge burden in terms of all of the refugees.

(*spoke in French*)

And therefore, together we should work out a more balanced global vision and seek stronger collective efforts to address large movements of persons throughout the world. If we tackle this situation directly, we will be able to reduce irregular migration, protect refugees, combat the smuggling of illegal persons and provide opportunities for refugees and migrants.

(*spoke in English*)

Both the future global compact on refugees and the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration should be about our countries working together on a framework that takes advantage of our collective strengths. Over the next two years, we will have a unique opportunity to shape those two agreements. It is a responsibility to help determine the world's ability to respond, innovate, cooperate and provide a better future for millions of people. It will also help our own countries benefit greatly from newcomers' contributions for many years to come.

(*spoke in French*)

These are rare opportunities, and we must take full advantage of them. Canada is offering all its support to those processes, and we wait impatiently for the adoption in 2018 of those two ambitious global compacts.

The meeting rose at 3.05 p.m.